

## Our Emission Check Program



Washington's air isn't perfect. Sometimes, it's just plain dirty. But by "Emission Checking" your vehicle, you're helping to keep pollution out of our air. Thanks for doing your part!

Most air pollution in our state is from motor vehicles. In parts of Clark, King, Pierce, Snohomish, and Spokane counties, the Emission Check Program reduces pollution by identifying the most polluting vehicles and requiring proper repairs.

This brochure explains what to expect when your vehicle needs an emission check.

## When to Test

State law requires vehicle emission checks every other year in areas where needed to meet federal health standards.

In addition, an emission check may be required when you buy a used vehicle.

We **recommend** that a buyer of a used vehicle make sure the vehicle had a recent passing emission check before purchasing it. However, only one passing emission check is **required** within the last 12 months to renew a vehicle license or to transfer vehicle ownership. Dealer sales are exempt.

It is illegal to register your vehicle outside the inspection area if you live in an inspection area.

Vehicles **registered** as fueled exclusively by propane, liquid petroleum gas, or natural gas do not need an emission check.

### A well-maintained vehicle:

- Performs better
- Consumes less fuel
- Pollutes less
- Costs less to operate
- Lasts longer

## Retesting and Repair Requirements

More than 80 percent of vehicles pass their emission check. If your vehicle fails the inspection, you will be given a copy of the Emission Check Vehicle Repair Guide that includes a list of repair businesses that employ Authorized Emission Specialists (AES) and meet the Department of Ecology's requirements.

If your vehicle doesn't pass, you will need to get it properly repaired. Repairs can be done by anyone; however, any repairs not done by an Authorized Emission Specialist (AES) employed in an Ecology-authorized shop will not count toward a waiver (see the paragraph below). If you take your vehicle to an AES for repairs, remember to take your test report also.

**Waiver criteria:** Many repairs can be made inexpensively. However, state law recognizes that certain repairs may be too costly for some motorists. Your vehicle could be eligible for a waiver from meeting emission standards if it fails a retest *and* meets the following criteria:

*Registered owners of 1980 or older vehicles that have spent a minimum of \$100 on appropriate emission repairs (with an AES) can apply and may receive a waiver. A minimum waiver amount of \$150 applies to 1981 and newer vehicles.*

Repairs should show a reduction in emissions.

### Waivers cannot be granted for vehicles:

- With removed, altered, or inoperative emission control systems.
- Unless the cost of appropriate diagnosis and repairs performed by Ecology's AES meet the \$100 or \$150 minimum.
- Unless those repairs are performed between the first and last test.
- Repaired by a non-AES.

## Retesting and Repair Requirements

The renewal notice for vehicles registered in Emission Check areas will state whether or not an emission inspection is required.

Vehicles newer than five years and older than 25 years do not need to be tested. The chart below shows the test schedule.

Year	Vehicles requiring a test
2003	1979-1995, odd model-years + 1996, 1998
2004	1980-1994, even model-years + 1997, 1999
2005	1981-1995, odd model-years + 1996, 1998, 2000
2006	1982-1994, even model years + 1997, 1999, 2001
2007	1983-1995, odd model years + 1996, 1998, 2000, 2002

### FOR INFORMATION

**Clark and Pierce Counties**  
1-800-453-4951

**King and Snohomish Counties**  
(425) 649-7021 or  
1-800-272-3780

**Spokane County**  
(509) 329-3491

[http://www.ecy.wa.gov/programs/air/cars/automotive\\_pages.htm](http://www.ecy.wa.gov/programs/air/cars/automotive_pages.htm)

## Things to Know Before You Go

***Fee: \$15, payable by cash, check, VISA, Mastercard, or Discover.***

***No bills larger than \$50, please.***

- Don't make repairs before the first test.
- Having your vehicle's registration or renewal notice speeds up the test process.
- For safety reasons, don't bring pets or passengers.
- Don't make repairs before the first test.
- Test in the middle of the month – lines are usually shorter.
- You may have to get out of your vehicle.
- Make sure your vehicle is fully warmed up before the test. Shortly before the test, drive for 15 minutes on the freeway. In cold weather, drive longer.
- Do not shut off your engine unless told to.
- Gas caps must be opened to be tested for leaks. Missing gas caps need to be replaced before the vehicle can be tested.
- Vehicles with exhaust leaks or idling too fast (greater than 1100 rpm) cannot be tested.
- Larger vehicles should use a station printed in *italics* on the station list.
- Drivers of some vehicles may be asked to disengage four-wheel drive or traction control systems before testing.

## Vehicle Emission Inspection Stations

*No appointments.*

*Larger vehicles should use stations printed in italics.*

### Clark County

W. Vancouver (360-574-3731) 14110 N.W. 3rd Court  
E. Vancouver (360-254-2173) 1121 N.E. 136th Ave.

### King County

Auburn (253-939-1225) 3002 "A" St. S.E.  
Bellevue (425-644-1803) 15313 S.E. 37th St.  
North Seattle (206-362-5173) 12040 Aurora Ave. N.  
Redmond (425-882-3317) 18610 N.E. 67th Court  
Renton (425-228-6453) 805 S.W. 10th St.  
*South Seattle (206-624-1254) 3820 6th Ave. S.*

### Pierce County

Fife (253-926-3277) 4912 Pacific Hwy E.  
Puyallup (253-848-6399) 10320 122nd St. E.  
*Lakewood (253-581-5243) 3003 - 107th St. S.*

### Snohomish County

Everett (425-347-5711) 1505 112th St. S.W.  
Lynnwood (425-771-7614) 19726 64th Ave. W.  
*Marysville (360-658-1137) 117 Beach Ave.*

### Spokane County

*Spokane Valley (509-535-1326) 16309 E. Marietta Ave.*  
*Spokane - Gonzaga (509-482-7724) 920 N. Hamilton St.*

Inspection stations are operated for the state by a private firm. The Department of Ecology oversees the operation of the test stations and authorizes emission repair specialists.

### Station Hours

**OPEN: Monday through Friday, 9:00 to 5:00**  
**Saturday, 9:00 to 1:00**

**CLOSED:** Sundays, state holidays, the day before Christmas, and Thanksgiving Day; but open the day after Thanksgiving. Severe weather or power outages may prevent or delay testing.

*If you require this publication in an alternate format, please contact Tami Dahlgren at 360-407-6830 or TTY (for the speech or hearing impaired) 711 or 1-800-833-6388.*